

SPECIAL AGENT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OPEN – STATEWIDE CONTINUOUS FILING



State of California
DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE
P.O. BOX 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT · AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER TO ALL REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED NATIONAL ORIGIN, ANCESTRY, SEX, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY, RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION, AGE OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

IT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO ACHIEVE A DRUG-FREE STATE WORK PLACE. ANY APPLICANT FOR STATE EMPLOYMENT WILL BE EXPECTED TO BEHAVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE BECAUSE THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LAW OF THE STATE, THE RULES GOVERNING CIVIL SERVICE AND THE SPECIAL TRUST PLACED IN PUBLIC SERVANTS.

CONTINUOUS TESTING

The testing office will accept examination packets continuously. Testing is considered continuous as cut-off dates can be set at any time as needs warrant. Applications will be reviewed to ensure the minimum requirements for participation in this exam are met. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Names of successful competitors will be merged into the list in order of final scores, regardless of test date. Once you have taken the written examination, you may not retest for twelve (12) months from the established list date.

WHO CAN APPLY

Persons who meet the minimum qualifications as stated on this bulletin. This is an Open Examination. Applications will not be accepted on a promotional basis.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for this examination, please complete and return the following:

- [State Examination Application \(Form STD 678\)](#)

Mailing Address:

Department of Justice
Testing and Selection Unit
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

File in Person:

Department of Justice
Testing and Selection Unit
1300 "I" Street, 1st Floor Lobby
Sacramento, CA 95814

**DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD, ONLINE,
VIA INTER-AGENCY MAIL OR FAX.**

RECRUITMENT SURVEY

As part of the application process, please follow [this web link](#) to complete a recruitment survey. If you are viewing this in paper form, visit the following website at www.ag.ca.gov/careers/exams.php

SPECIAL TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

If you are an individual with a disability and need reasonable accommodation to participate in this examination, please mark the box in question #2 on the "Examination Application". You will be notified in writing to determine what assistance can be provided.

SALARY RANGE

Range A - \$3740-\$4840 Range B - \$4474-\$6085 Range C - \$5397-\$7341

The salaries used in this bulletin are the latest available from the State Controller's Office, but may not reflect the most recent salary adjustment.

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

An open eligible list will be established for the Department of Justice. The names of successful competitors will be merged on the list in order of final scores, regardless of date. Competitors' eligibility will expire 12 months after it is established unless the needs of the service and conditions of the list warrant a change in this period.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATION

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements by the announced cut-off date. All applications/resumes must include "To" and "From" employment dates (Month/Day/Year), time base, and applicable classification titles.

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**MINIMUM
QUALIFICATIONS**

EITHER I

One year of experience in the California state service performing duties in the class of Special Agent Trainee, DOJ. (Six months of service as a Special Agent Trainee, DOJ, will admit applicants to the examination, but they must satisfactorily complete one year of experience in this class before they can be considered eligible for appointment.)

OR II

Experience: Two years of experience as a peace officer* in an investigative assignment performing civil, criminal, or narcotics law enforcement work. (Patrol experience may be substituted for the required investigative experience on the basis of one year of patrol experience being equivalent to six months of investigative experience.

AND

Education: Equivalent to completion of two years of college (60 semester units). (Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the required college education on a year-for-year basis.)

OR III

Experience: One year of experience as a peace officer* in an investigative assignment performing civil, criminal or narcotics law enforcement work. (Patrol experience may be substituted for the required investigative experience on the basis of one year of patrol experience being equivalent to six months of investigative experience.)

AND

Education: Equivalent to graduation from college.

***In California as defined in Sections 830.1, 830.2, and 830.3 of the California Penal Code or equivalent federal and out-of-state law enforcement.**

AGE REQUIREMENT

Minimum age at appointment is 18 years.

**CITIZENSHIP
REQUIREMENT**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1031 (a), in order to be a peace officer, a person must be either a U.S. citizen or be a permanent resident alien who is eligible for and has applied for U.S. citizenship, except for members of the California Highway Patrol who must be U. S. citizens. Permanent resident aliens who have not applied for citizenship will be permitted to take an examination, but cannot be appointed to a peace officer class until they have applied for citizenship. Denial of an application for citizenship shall result in termination of employment. In addition, failure to attain citizenship within three years after filing an employment application because the applicant has not cooperated in processing the application for citizenship shall result in termination of employment.

**FELONY
DISQUALIFICATION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1031 (a), in order to be a peace officer, a person must be either a U.S. citizen or be a permanent resident alien who is eligible for and has applied for U.S. citizenship, except for members of the California Highway Patrol who must be U. S. citizens. Permanent resident aliens who have not applied for citizenship will be permitted to take an examination, but cannot be appointed to a peace officer class until they have applied for citizenship. Denial of an application for citizenship shall result in termination of employment. In addition, failure to attain citizenship within three years after filing an employment application because the applicant has not cooperated in processing the application for citizenship shall result in termination of employment.

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**POSITION
DESCRIPTION**

Special Agents investigate illegal drug activity, complex money laundering operations, and work undercover to infiltrate underground criminal organizations. Special Agents are committed to providing a stateside presence with the suppression of violent gangs through traditional and non-traditional law enforcement strategies. Special Agents assigned to California's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) lead teams of local, state, and federal officers to locate and destroy marijuana gardens in remote sites throughout the state. Agents may be assigned and responsible for finding and dismantling clandestine drug labs that manufacture methamphetamine as well as other illegal substances. Special Agents assigned to the aviation program coordinate department aviation resources in support of field investigations, and fly department operated aircraft.

Special Agents perform investigations for the Attorney General's legal Divisions, assist district attorneys and local law enforcement in complex multi-jurisdictional investigations and conduct special investigations as directed by the Attorney General in response to the Governor, the Legislature or other state agencies. Additionally, Special Agents conduct investigations involving political corruption and public rights violations, large-scale consumer fraud, homicides, investigate high technology computer crimes, conduct polygraph examinations, apprehend violent career criminals and sexually violent predators, and respond to international child abductions and fugitive apprehension.

Special Agents collect timely information regarding organized crime, gang, and terrorist activity that is occurring throughout California and provide that information to federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities to further their investigation and prosecution of suspects involved in criminal enterprises. Additionally, agents have an opportunity to be assigned to state and federal task forces. These task forces conduct extensive investigations. Agents also utilize their expertise in criminal intelligence to train local law enforcement authorities.

Special Agents work as a team with a Deputy Attorney General from case inception to case prosecution. Agents investigate criminal fraud committed against the state medical assistance program, physical and sexual abuse of elder and dependant adults, neglect by facility staff as well as corporations, and the diversion of legal pharmaceuticals for illegal purposes.

Special Agents are mandated to investigate persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms as a result of their felony/misdemeanor convictions, mental health status, and issuance of a restraining/protective order. The California Armed Prohibited Persons Program is the primary focus of the enforcement section and is responsible for disarming, apprehending, and ensuring prosecution of persons. Special Agents also work undercover to investigate crimes involving illegal firearms trafficking, testify as court recognized experts, conduct dangerous weapons permit investigations, inspect firearms dealers, and provide firearms expertise.

Special Agents investigate suspected violations of gambling laws; conduct extensive background investigations on individuals applying for state gambling licenses; plan and coordinate multi-agency investigations; inspect premises where gambling equipment is manufactured, distributed or sold; and are responsible for monitoring the conduct of individuals involved in gambling operations to ensure that gambling is conducted honestly and free of criminal and corruptive elements.

**EXAMINATION
INFORMATION**

To obtain a position on the eligible list, applicants must receive a minimum rating of 70% on each part of the examination. This exam will consist of a multiple-choice test and a written essay test.

The multiple choice test will measure the following:

- Intelligence/Information gathering
- Documenting and report writing
- Interview and interrogation
- Reading sources of information
- Managing the crime scene
- Identification and handling of evidence
- Public relations
- Administrative activities
- Search and arrest warrants and court orders

MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST- WEIGHTED 60%

**EXAMINATION
INFORMATION
(CONTINUED)**

The written essay test will measure the following:

- Skill to communicate effectively in writing in a courteous, professional manner with a variety of individuals, taking into the consideration the needs of the audience.
- Critical thinking skills and the ability to carefully and completely develop thoughts and ideas so the reader can understand the intended message.
- Knowledge of the structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.

WRITTEN ESSAY TEST – WEIGHTED 40%

**BACKGROUND
INFORMATION**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1031, persons successful in peace officer examinations shall be required to undergo a thorough background investigation prior to appointment. Persons who have previously undergone a Department of Justice background investigation may be required to undergo an additional background investigation.

Information collected for the background investigation after the examination will require you to divulge arrest and/or conviction information on the background investigation documents at the time of employment, but is not required of you at this time. The information you furnish will be used to help determine your suitability for employment with the Department of Justice.

Under Section 432.7(e) of the Labor Code, persons seeking employment with the Department of Justice may be asked to disclose arrest or detention information regardless of whether or not the arrest or detention resulted in conviction, referral, or participation in diversion programs.

Department of Justice Regulations require, as a minimum, pre-employment investigations consisting of fingerprinting, inquiry to local, State, and national files to disclose criminal records, verification of minimum qualifications (i.e., college transcripts), financial status, previous employment background, and personal interviews to determine applicant's suitability for employment.

Any applicant for a State civil service examination for a peace officer class who discloses, or whose background investigation reveals, use of a drug for which possession would constitute a felony offense under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Health and Safety Code, division 10, beginning at 11000) subsequent to his or her eighteenth birthday and prior to his or her twenty-third birthday, shall be disqualified from the examination in which he or she is competing until 5 years have elapsed from the date of the disclosed or revealed use of the drug; and shall not be eligible to take any State civil service examination for a peace officer class until 5 years have elapsed from the date of the disclosed or revealed use. If any such disclosed or revealed use occurred on or after the applicant's twenty-third birthday, he or she shall be disqualified from the examination in which he or she is competing until 10 years have elapsed from the date of the disclosed or revealed use of the drug; and shall not be eligible to take any State civil service examination for a peace officer class until 10 years have elapsed from the date of the disclosed or revealed use. The disqualification period shall begin on the date that the drug was used, and not on the date that the drug use was disclosed or revealed.

**PHYSICAL AGILITY
TEST**

Pass/Fail - Physical performance test will be a test of strength, agility, balance and endurance. Specific descriptions of each physical performance test will be provided to successful candidates prior to the Physical Agility Test.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL
SCREENING TEST**

Pass/Fail - This test will consist of a written examination and an interview by a psychologist.

**MEDICAL
EXAMINATION**

Pass/Fail - Pursuant to Government Code Section 1031, persons appointed to a peace officer class shall undergo a medical examination to determine that he or she can perform the essential functions of the job safely and effectively. The medical examination also includes a back x-ray, visual acuity and color vision tests.

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**POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATION**

The candidate may be required to take a polygraph examination.

**FIREARMS
CONVICTION
DISQUALIFICATION**

Anyone who is restricted for employment-related purposes from accessing, possessing, carrying, receiving, or having under his/her control a firearm or ammunition under all applicable State or Federal laws is ineligible for appointment to any position in this classification.

**TRAINING
REQUIREMENTS**

Under provisions of Penal Code Section 832, successful completion of a training course in laws of arrest, search and seizure, and in firearms and chemical agents is a requirement for permanent status in this classification.

**SPECIAL PERSONAL
CHARACTERISTICS**

No illegal involvement in controlled substances as an adult; willingness to work through-out the State and at unusual hours; ability to work under stress and adverse conditions; keenness of observation; good memory for names, faces, places, and incidents; willingness to associate with criminally inclined persons and environments in performance of duties; willingness to work undercover and participate in covert moving, stationary and aerial surveillances; willingness to utilize a variety of weaponry, including shotguns, machine guns, tear gas and distractionary devices; willingness to pursue violent repeat offenders and effect their arrest; willingness to operate a police vehicle under emergency circumstances; willingness to deal with toxic materials and chemicals; willingness to handle gruesome crime scenes involving persons of all ages; satisfactory record as a law-abiding citizen; maintain good credit; possession of a valid California driver's license; willingness to use all appropriate means, including deadly force, to carry out peace officer duties; exercise good judgment; and demonstrate good work habits.

**SPECIAL PHYSICAL
CHARACTERISTICS**

Good health, sound physical condition, freedom from any physical, mental, or emotional condition or limitation that would interfere with the full performance of the essential duties of positions in this class; effective use of both hands; strength, endurance, and agility; normal hearing; vision sufficient to perform the essential functions of the class; and weight proportionate to height.

**ADDITIONAL
CHARACTERISTICS**

Possession of the appropriate certificates as evidence of increased competency at each level is desirable. Also desirable is evidence of completed course work in the following subject areas: introduction to criminal justice, introduction to criminal law, basic investigation, evidence, criminal procedure, and philosophy of law.

**VETERANS
PREFERENCE
CREDITS/
CAREER CREDITS**

Veterans Preference Credits or Career Credits do not apply in this examination.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Department of Justice reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all candidates will be notified.

It is the Candidate's Responsibility to contact the Department of Justice, (916) 324-5039, TDD (916) 952-8396 three days prior to the written test date if he/she has not received his/her notice.

For an examination without a written feature it is the candidate's responsibility to contact the Department of Justice, (916) 324-5039, TDD (916) 952-8396 three weeks after the final filing date if he/she has not received a progress notice.

If a candidate's notice of oral interview or performance test fails to reach him/her prior to the day of the interview due to a verified postal error, he/she will be rescheduled upon written request.

Applications are available at the State Personnel Board Offices (www.spb.ca.gov), and local Offices of the Employment Development Department (www.edd.ca.gov).

If you meet the requirements stated on the reverse, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirement does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described on the other side of this bulletin will be compared with the performance of the others who take this test, and all candidates who pass will be ranked according to their scores.

Examination Locations: When a written test is part of the examination, it will be given in such places in California as the number of candidates and conditions warrant. Ordinarily, interviews are scheduled in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. However, locations of interviews may be limited or extended as conditions warrant.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi departmental promotional, 4) service wide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older list must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in from one to four years unless otherwise stated on this bulletin.

General Qualifications: Candidates must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment, and ability to work cooperatively with others; and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

Interview Scope: If an interview is conducted, in addition to the scope described on the other side of this bulletin, the panel will consider education, experience, personal development, personal traits and fitness. In appraising experience, more weight will be given to the breadth and recency of pertinent experience and evidence of the candidate's ability to accept and fulfill increasing responsibilities than to the length of his/her experience. Evaluation of a candidate's personal development will include consideration of his/her recognition of his/her own training needs; his/her plans for self-development; and the progress he/she has made in his/her efforts toward self-development.

Veterans Preference: California law limits the granting of veterans preference credits to entrance examinations. When credit is granted it is as follows: 10 points for veterans, widows or widowers of veterans and spouses of 100% disabled veterans; and 15 points for disabled veterans. Directions for applying for veterans preference are on the Veterans Preference application form which is available from State Personnel Board offices or written test proctors.

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the candidate is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.

Career Credits: In open, nonpromotional examinations, career credits are granted to: 1) State employees with permanent civil service status, 2) full-time employees of the State who are exempt from State civil service pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 of Article VII of the California Constitution, and who meet all qualification requirements specified by the Board and have 12 consecutive months of service in an exempt position, and 3) individuals who have served one full year in, or are graduates of, the California Conservation Corps (eligibility shall expire 24 months after graduation from the California Conservation Corps). Three points are added to the final test score of those candidates who meet the above criteria, and who are successful in the examination. Such examinations cannot be for managerial positions described in Government Code Section 3513. Competitors not currently employed in State civil service who have mandatory reinstatement rights may also be eligible for career credits, but they must explain their civil service status in the appropriate section of the application Form 100-678. (Section 4 of article VII of the California Constitution is posted at the State Personnel Board, 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento.)

If hearing impaired, call the California Relay Service.

1-800-735-2929 (From TDD Phone)

1-800-735-2922 (From Voice Phone)

TDD is Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from telephones equipped with a TDD device.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TESTING AND SELECTION UNIT
P.O. BOX 944255
SACRAMENTO, CA 94255-2550
(916) 324-5039